

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 93-96 which are renumbered as claims 90-93 according to 37 C.F.R. 1.121(b) by inserting the underlined materials and deleting the bracketed materials as follows:

--90. (Amended) A method of detecting micrometastatic prostate tumor cells of a subject, comprising a) obtaining a suitable sample; b) extracting nucleic acid molecules from the sample; c) contacting the nucleic acid molecules under hybridizing conditions with a labeled nucleic acid molecule of at least 15 nucleotides capable of specifically hybridizing with a nucleic acid molecule encoding a prostate specific membrane antigen having the amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO. 2; d) detecting the labeled nucleic acid molecule, thereby detecting micrometastatic prostate tumor cells of the subject.--

--91. (Amended) A method of detecting micrometastatic prostate tumor cells of a subject, comprising a) obtaining a suitable sample; b) extracting nucleic acid molecules from the sample; c) contacting the nucleic acid molecules under hybridizing conditions with a primer which is capable of specifically hybridizing to a nucleic acid molecule encoding a prostate specific membrane antigen having the amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO. 2; e) amplifying the nucleic acid molecules to which the primer hybridizes to, so as to obtain an amplification product; f) detecting the amplification product, thereby detecting micrometastatic prostate tumor cells of the subject.--

--92. (Amended) A method of detecting in a sample the presence of a nucleic acid encoding a prostate specific membrane antigen which comprises: a) obtaining a suitable sample; b) extracting RNA from the sample; c) contacting the RNA with reverse transcriptase under suitable conditions to obtain a cDNA; d) contacting the cDNA under hybridizing conditions with a primer capable of specifically hybridizing to a nucleic acid molecule encoding a prostate specific membrane antigen having the amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO. 2; e) amplifying any cDNA to which the primer hybridizes to, so as to obtain an amplification product; f) detecting the amplification product, thereby detecting the presence of the nucleic acid molecule encoding the prostate specific membrane antigen in the sample.--

--93. (Amended) The method of claim [93] 90, wherein the sample is blood, lymph nodes, bone marrow, semen or urine.--

REMARKS

Applicants acknowledge that claims 93-96 are renumbered as claims 90-93. By this Amendment, applicants have amended claims 90-92 to incorporate "SEQ ID NO. 2" into the claims. Accordingly, there is no issue of new matter and applicants respectfully request the entry of this Amendment, upon entry amended claims 90-92 and claim 93 are under examination.

The Examiner rejected that claims 90-93 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.